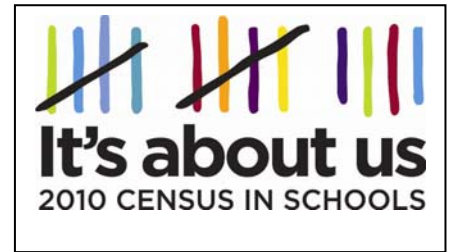


# World Statistics Day

Celebrating the Many Achievements of Official Statistics



## Skills and Objectives

### Students will:

Build confidence relating to reading fluency, increase vocabulary using textual clues, and understand ideas concerning civic life and government.

### Standards:

**Social Studies** - Individual development and identity; power, authority, and governance; civic ideals and practices

**English Language Arts** - Use reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret literary texts and use listening and speaking strategies for different purposes

## Background

This lesson introduces World Statistics Day, Federal statistics, and the importance of statistics through a Reader's Theater activity.

## Words to Know

**Statistics** - The mathematics of collecting, organizing, and interpreting data

**World Statistics Day** – October 20, 2010

**Census** – A complete count of a population

## Materials:

Student worksheet "World Statistics Day: A Reader's Theatre Script" 1-A

Student worksheet "World Statistics Day" 1-B

**Time Required:** One class session

## Getting Started

1. Explain to students that on October 20, 2010, countries around the world will celebrate the first World Statistics Day to raise awareness of its importance and the increasing role of statistics in societies and governments around the world. Also, government agencies, businesses, and community leaders use statistics to make educated decisions for their communities.
2. Explain that there are 14 Federal statistical organizations in the United States doing vital work for our nation. One of these organizations is the U.S. Census Bureau.
3. Explain that the U.S. Census Bureau is best known for its complete count of the United States population known as the decennial census, which has been conducted every 10 years since 1790. Engage the students in a conversation about the 2010 Census. Ask: **An important civic event happened in 2010. Do you know what it was?** Explain that the 2010 Census was taken this past spring and summer. The goal of the 2010 Census was to find out how many people live

in the United States by counting each man, woman, and child using a short set of questions. It is a law that the government must count the number of people living in this country every 10 years, and it is our responsibility to make sure that we are counted. Ask the students if they remember participating or hearing about the 2010 Census.

**4.** Explain that the U.S. Census Bureau also conducts numerous other surveys and censuses that are constantly measuring the changing population, social, and economic information for the nation, and reports these data to state, local, and tribal governments.

### **Using the Student Worksheets**

**5.** Tell students that they will learn more about the reasons for statistics, World Statistics Day, and the U.S. Census Bureau through a fun Reader's Theater activity.

**6.** Distribute World Statistics Day - A Reader's Theater Script Student Worksheet 1-A to each student. Have your students break into groups of three and allow them to choose their roles. No costumes or sets are needed; A Reader's Theater is meant to be simple and build reading fluency and self-confidence.

**7.** Instruct the students to perform the script three times, alternating roles each time. Ask the student actors to remain seated in their chairs and read as dramatically as possible.

**8.** Distribute World Statistics Day Student Worksheet 1-B to each student. Provide class time for students to answer the questions and complete the writing assignment.

### **Wrap-up**

**9.** Review the World Statistics Day Worksheet. See answers below.

**10.** Explain that statistics play a major role in everyday life. Statistics provide community leaders with the information needed to make decisions that impact their community. The U.S. Census Bureau's role is to provide quality statistics about people, businesses, and governments. Community leaders use census information when they decide which communities will receive new services like schools, playgrounds, roads, and police stations.

### **Answers**

World Statistics Day Student Worksheet 1-B: **1.)** World Statistics Day is October 20, 2010. **2.)** No; countries from around the world are celebrating World Statistics Day. **3.)** 14 **4.)** The 2010 Census. **5.)** Community leaders, government organizations, and businesses. **6.)** 1790. **7.)** Allocate funds at state, local, and tribal levels; determines the number of representatives each state has in Congress; businesses use data to plan. **8.)** Mail-in questionnaire forms, Census Bureau employees visit residences, and the Census Bureau conducts telephone interviews. **9.)** No; Beside the national census that is conducted every 10 years, there are many other censuses and surveys done by the U.S. Census Bureau. **10.)** Community leaders, elected officials, researchers, etc.

# World Statistics Day

## A Reader's Theater Script

### Characters:

Mom  
Dad  
Son/Daughter

**Scene:** A small family is gathered at home around the dinner table sharing a meal.

### Script:

**Son/Daughter:** Today my teacher told us that World Statistics Day is coming up soon. What are statistics? What is World Statistics Day? Why are we celebrating statistics?

**Dad:** Statistics is the mathematics of collecting, organizing, and interpreting data. World Statistics Day is October 20, 2010. Countries from around the world are celebrating the importance and role of statistics in the world.

**Mom:** I know you think we don't need to know statistics because you think we don't use it on a daily basis, but statistics affect you and me and the things that we do every single day.

**Dad:** Let's stop for a moment to think about a world without statistics. If it weren't for statistics, how would we know what our community needs, how many new businesses are opening up and where? Businesses wouldn't know where to expand. Without statistics, how would we ever know the number of teachers or classrooms needed in our communities? We wouldn't know where we would place roads and bridges for all of us to go to work, school, or the mall?

**Mom:** Statistics affect our lives without us even knowing it.

**Son/Daughter:** Who collects the statistics on our community?

**Mom:** There are 14 organizations in the Federal government that collect statistical information. One of them is the U.S. Census Bureau, which does a census every 10 years. The census goes back to the beginning of our country. In 1790, the first census was done. The census was created by the founders of our country as a way to determine how many representatives each state had in Congress. Data from the census still determine the number of representatives each state has in Congress.

**Dad:** The government also uses statistics to share funds at state, local, and tribal levels to support the growth and development of communities. For example; let's say your town is currently supplying water to a certain amount of people. The latest census data would tell us how many people live there as well as the growth in your community's population. Because of the rise in population, the government will supply funds to your community to help support the growth as well as the planning to make sure there is enough water for all the residents in the future.

**Son/Daughter:** How does the Census Bureau collect so much information?

**Mom:** Do you remember when we got the census questionnaire in the mail and we filled it out and mailed it back?

**Son/Daughter:** Yes.

**Mom:** Well, we were participating in the 2010 Census. That is when the U.S. Census Bureau collects information on everyone living in the United States. That was the national census that is done every 10 years and is viewed as the biggest job of them all, but there are also other censuses and surveys done by the U.S. Census Bureau.

**Dad:** These other surveys and censuses tell more about the United States, where people live and what they do, by gathering and organizing new information in between each national census. There is even an economic census which provides us with statistics about the businesses in the United States.

**Mom:** There is also a government census that gathers statistics on the different types of government offices in the United States.

**Son/Daughter:** Wow! They sure are busy at the Census Bureau.

**Mom:** Also, let's not forget the other 13 organizations in the United States government collecting important information as well.

**Dad:** Our community leaders, elected officials, and businesses have an idea of who lives in their communities and uses all this available data to make the decisions to improve their community.

**Son/Daughter:** I never knew that the use of statistics is how decisions are made for our community. I never knew that the use of statistics played such an important role in our lives. I can't wait to celebrate World Statistics Day with my class!

# World Statistics Day

## Reading Questions

Answer these questions based on World Statistics Day - A Reader's Theater Script

1. When is World Statistics Day? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Is the United States of America the only country celebrating World Statistics Day? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How many federal agencies collect statistics in the United States?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What major civic event happened in 2010?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Who uses statistics to make decisions?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. When was the first United States census? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What are Census Bureau statistics used for?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. How does the Census Bureau collect data?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Is the census the only thing that the Census Bureau does? What else does the Census Bureau do? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What are some professions that use statistics? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_